

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 02875 090246Z
ACTION IO-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 EA-06 EB-04 INR-05
NSC-05 ARA-10 TRSE-00 L-01 /060 W
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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7649
INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO
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C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 02875

LIMDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (REFERENCE ADDED)

MEXICO CITY FOR WFC DEL BYRNES
ROME FOR FODAG

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AORG, PORG, WFP, EPEP, VM
SUBJECT: WFP MANAGEMENT IN VIETNAM

REF: A. STATE 139579;
B. ROME 10268;
C. STATE 141238

1. ECONCOUNSELOR AND AGATT MET WITH GOC OFFICIALS TO
CONVEY CONCERNS EXPRESSED REF A. MEETING CONVENED BY
EXTAFF INCLUDED OFFICIALS FROM BUREAU OF U.S. AFFAIRS,
ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS, AND COMMERCIAL AND COMMODITY
RELATIONS, AS WELL AS AGRICULTURE CANADA. CIDA INVITED
BUT COULD NOT ATTEND, DEVELOPMENT WHICH CANADIAN SIDE
REGRETTED BUT EXPLAINED THAT MAIN RESPONSIBILITY FOR
PARTICIPATION IN AND ASSESSMENT OF WFC PROGRAMS RESTS WITH
AGRICULTURE CANADA.

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PAGE 02 OTTAWA 02875 090246Z

2. ECONCOUNSELOR EXPLAINED U.S. CONCERN WAS NOT OVER
SPECIFIC WFP PROJECTS IN VIETNAM BUT WAS GENERAL CONCERN
ABOUT PROGRAM MANAGEMENT INCLUDING COMMODITY DIVERSION AND
SUBSTITUTION, AND ABSENCE OF CONTROLS AND SUPERVISION BY
WFP PERSONNEL. U.S. FEARS THIS LACK OF CONFORMITY TO
BASIC WFP REQUIREMENTS UNDERMINES SOUND PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

AND SETS PRECEDENT WHICH OTHER COUNTRIES COULD FOLLOW. GOC WAS INFORMED THAT WE HAVE DISCUSSED ISSUES RECENTLY WITH VOGEL IN ROME (REF B) AND WOULD DO SO AGAIN SOON IN MEXICO CITY. U.S. SOUGHT TO ALERT CANADA TO ITS CONCERNS SINCE WE ARE THE MAJOR DONORS TO WFP.

3. FRANK SHEFFRIN, DIRECTOR INTERNATIONAL LIAISON AT AGRICULTURE CANADA, REPLIED THAT GOC WAS AWARE OF SOME PROBLEMS BUT RECOGNIZED THAT VIETNAM AS FIRST COMMUNIST COUNTRY TO PARTICIPATE IN WFP, IN MAJOR WAY, WAS CERTAIN TO PRESENT SOME DIFFICULTIES. HE REFERRED TO URGENT NEED FOR FOOD AID THROUGH MULTILATERAL MECHANISM AS WAR ENDED IN VIETNAM AS AMONG REASONS FOR SOME LACK OF ATTENTION TO USUAL ADMINISTRATIVE PRACTICES -- BUT ACKNOWLEDGED POOR MANAGEMENT WOULD NOT BE CONDONED AND THAT PROBLEM OF PRECEDENT WAS REAL. SHEFFRIN SAID GOC HAD NO FIRST HAND INFORMATION BUT THAT LATER THIS WEEK HE WOULD HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT WITH TONY DAWSON, CANADIAN WFP OFFICIAL, WHO HAS JUST RETURNED FROM HEADING WFP TEAM IN VIETNAM, AND WOULD SEEK HIS ASSESSMENT OF WFP PROJECTS MANAGEMENT IN VIETNAM. SHEFFRIN AGREED TO STAY IN CLOSE TOUCH ON WFP PROBLEM. DUEMLING

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